

Chairman Thompson: I would like to ask you about the meeting that you referred to on July 14 with Mr. Eckstein. You have addressed that. Mr. Eckstein, of course, said that you told him that Mr. Ickes wanted a decision today.

If you would, go back and state what you remember was discussed concerning that particular point.

Secretary Babbitt: . . . My recollection is that Mr. Eckstein came - - had been to several other offices within the Interior Department in respect to this matter and come to my office.

As I recall, his principal objective was to try to obtain some kind of delay in this matter, which my understanding, I believe, was that the Gaming Office and the Assistant Secretary - - Deputy Assistant Secretary were prepared to make the decision that day, and - -

Chairman Thompson: That day being July 14th?

Secretary Babbitt: I believe that is correct.

That the decision [sic]⁶⁶⁶ centered on that, and that during the course of that discussion, it is my recollection that I may well have said to him, "Mr. Ickes expects me to make a decision or Mr. Ickes wants me to make a decision."

Chairman Thompson: Today? Might you have said Mr. Ickes wants you to make the decision today.

Secretary Babbitt: I have no idea whether they did or not.

Chairman Thompson: Do you recall Mr. Eckstein's testimony that Mr. Quinn⁶⁶⁷ said it was imperative that he get right in there immediately if he wanted to talk about this matter?

Secretary Babbitt: I don't recall that, no.

⁶⁶⁶Review of the hearing videotape indicates clearly that this word should be "discussion."

⁶⁶⁷From the context of the question, it appears that Sen. Thompson was referring to John Duffy.